

help and assistance to its members. We appreciate the kind things that have been said about the JOURNAL by many of the eastern medical press; and also the fact that some of them have borrowed our ideas and others our "copy." But that is merely incidental. What is essential is that you, as an individual member and owner of the Society and its JOURNAL, shall be satisfied with it and shall say or think pleasant things about it. The JOURNAL is a fairly good journal, but it is a long way from what we want it to be. Your aid and assistance, the aid and the help of each and every member of the Society, can alone make the JOURNAL exactly what it should be—representative of every portion of the State and of every interest of all its members.

The Publication Committee would be remiss in the performance of its duties if it failed to develop the possibilities of the JOURNAL as a news magazine for all things that interest the individual members of the Society. Here should be found recorded the notices of all marriages, with the full names of the contracting parties, and this should be in the JOURNAL as a piece of news, and good news for all the medical friends of the groom, and perhaps of the bride as well. Notices of deaths of medical men, with appropriate memoranda of their lives, should always be sent to the JOURNAL. It is the prerogative of this publication to record such, for here may often be found the most appropriate place for this notice of a man's works—one who had not striven for place or office, but had done the task that came to him as well as he was able. Notices of change of residence or office, or of removal from one town or city to another, should be included in those which are appropriate for mention, as should be notices of contemplated absences, with the name of the *locum tenens*, for these are all matters of medical personal news. To make the JOURNAL the medium for the dissemination of this news, it will be necessary that it have reporters all over the State, and in general the man most fit for such work is the Secretary of the County Society. This has been said before in these pages, and is repeated here to emphasize it, and to add that if the Secretary of any given county society is unable to do this it would be advisable for the society to notify the JOURNAL so that it could arrange for a reporter for these matters, which are somewhat outside the specific duties of a secretary. Moreover, the JOURNAL will supply all necessary stationery and postage for such communications, so that the tax will be only on the time of the reporters. In this connection it should be fully understood by the various stated and special committees of the State

Society that one of the uses the JOURNAL may be put to is publicity of matters delegated to such committees and which they may desire to have brought to the direct attention of all the members of the Society. The Publication Committee asks the hearty coöperation of all in these branches of medical journalism.

Once more the "Is-alcohol-a-food-or-a-poison?" question seems to be exciting a good deal of discussion in the editorial columns of the press of the country, both lay and medical. And in Europe, too, much has recently been written upon this subject. Tables of statistics, maddening in their extent and complexity, have been compiled and arranged, always with utter disregard to the fact, long since stated by an able man, that "nothing lies like statistics." Not but what many of the conclusions deduced from a careful study of the sociologic problem of the relation of drink to crime are undoubtedly true, to a greater or less extent. There can be no discussion on the statement that the brain suffers most from undue quantities of alcohol, and that to this cause may be assigned many of the crimes of an emotional character, misdemeanors, crimes against morals and offenses against the person; nor yet that many cases of insanity may be due to excessive indulgence in alcohol. But in the consideration of this question the personal equation is invariably disregarded; heredity and environment, unless they, too, have a direct bearing on the alcohol question, are disregarded. One may safely ask whether the personality of many of the individuals who are registered as criminals due to alcoholism is not such as to lead to the belief that the same, or similar crimes of an emotional character, would have been committed under other circumstances and under the excitement of stimuli other than alcohol? And of the 21.5% of male insane for whom the cause of insanity is given, by Dr. Robert Jones, as alcohol, it may be asked, are we safe in accepting these figures without revision and consideration of the factors of heredity, environment and personal idiosyncrasy? All the deductions from statistics thus far published seem to be misleading for the reason that the normal average is not considered; only the abnormal, underdeveloped or weak individuals are considered. For instance, it is absurd to apply the words of Dr. De Boeck, at the International Prison Congress, to the average individual who regularly drinks a moderate amount of wine with his meals, and is none the worse, and sometimes the better, for it: "Alcohol," he said, "is a violent poison to the nervous elements; destroys them when taken in large doses, or by a slow death when taken in small,